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ABSTRACT

This report summarizes the research studies, literature reviews and related documents on the relationship between public school students' achievement and the library media program. Research indicates students in schools with well-equipped library media centers and professional library media specialists perform better on achievement tests for reading comprehension and basic research skills (Haycock, Ken. "What Works," Rockland Press, 1992). A historical perspective is illustrated in a timeline diagram from 1876 to 2002, with research highlights, such as a summary of conclusions of the Impact of School Library Media Centers on Academic Study (1988-89) and findings of "The Power of Reading" which concludes that young people who read a lot improve comprehension. Key common findings of recent studies 1998-2001) are identified, and information literacy standards for student learning are listed. The report concludes: students are likely to earn higher reading scores if their schools have certified library media specialists; their school library media specialists are assisted by support staff; and their library media specialists play a vital instructional role, collaborating with classroom teachers. Students in schools with well-staffed library media programs averaged reading scores five to ten points higher than those without such staffing. (Contains 27 references.) (AEF)

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Facts at a Glance
Student Achievement and the School Library Media Program

By: Judith Dzikowski, Comp.

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Facts at a Glance . . .

Student Achievement and the School Library Media Program

"What a school thinks about its library is a measure of what it thinks about education."

Harold Howe, Former U.S. Commissioner of Education

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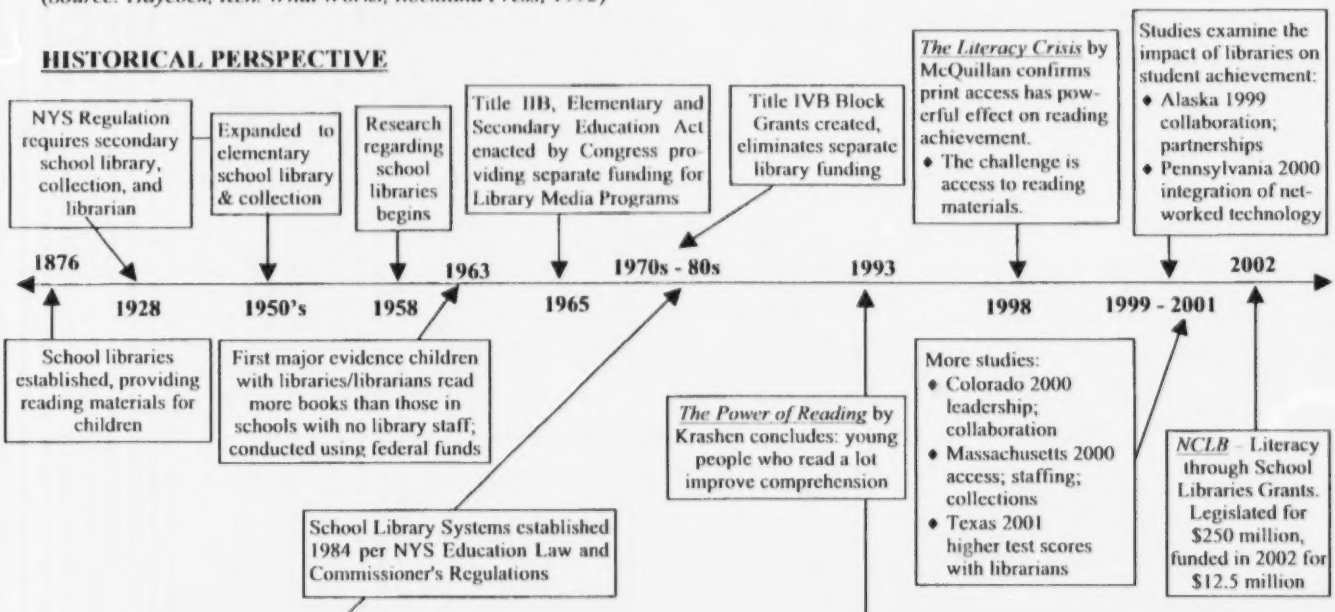
FACTS AT A GLANCE...

Student Achievement and School Library Media Programs

This report summarizes the research studies, literature reviews and related documents on the relationship between public school students' achievement and the library media program.

Research indicates students in schools with well-equipped library media centers and professional library media specialists perform better on achievement tests for reading comprehension and basic research skills. (*Source: Haycock, Ken. What Works, Rockland Press, 1992*)

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE


1876
1928
1950's
1958
1963
1965
1970s - 80s
1993
1998
1999 - 2001
2002
NYS Regulation requires secondary school library, collection, and librarian
Expanded to elementary school library & collection
Research regarding school libraries begins
Title IIB, Elementary and Secondary Education Act enacted by Congress providing separate funding for Library Media Programs
Title IVB Block Grants created, eliminates separate library funding
The Literacy Crisis by McQuillan confirms print access has powerful effect on reading achievement.
• The challenge is access to reading materials.
Studies examine the impact of libraries on student achievement:
• Alaska 1999 collaboration; partnerships
• Pennsylvania 2000 integration of networked technology
School libraries established, providing reading materials for children
First major evidence children with libraries/librarians read more books than those in schools with no library staff; conducted using federal funds
The Power of Reading by Krashen concludes: young people who read a lot improve comprehension
More studies:
• Colorado 2000 leadership; collaboration
• Massachusetts 2000 access; staffing; collections
• Texas 2001 higher test scores with librarians
NCLB – Literacy through School Libraries Grants. Legislated for $250 million, funded in 2002 for $12.5 million
School Library Systems established 1984 per NYS Education Law and Commissioner's Regulations

Summary of Conclusions
The Impact of School Library Media Centers on Academic Achievement Study 1988-89

- The size of a School Media Center's (SLMC) staff and collection is the best school predictor of academic achievement.
- Among school/community predictors, size of the SLMC staff and collection is second only to the absence of at-risk conditions, particularly poverty and low educational attainment among adults.
- Students who score higher on standardized tests tend to come from schools with more SLMC staff and more books, periodicals, and multimedia; regardless of other factors, including economic ones.
- The instructional role of the school library media specialist shapes the collection, and in turn, academic achievement.
- School library media expenditures affect SLMS staff, collection size and, in turn, academic achievement.

The sample of this study was 221 of 1,331 Colorado Public schools.

Findings - *The Power of Reading*

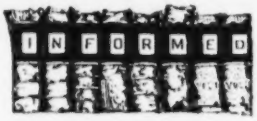
- Voluntary reading is the best predictor of reading comprehension, vocabulary growth, spelling ability, grammatical usage and writing
- Access to School Library Media Centers results in more voluntary reading by students.
- Having a school library media specialist makes a difference in the amount of voluntary reading done.
- Larger school library collections and longer hours increase both circulation and amount read.

***** Research shows the highest achieving students come from schools with good school libraries.*****

(Source: Lance, Keith Curry. The Impact of School Library Media Centers on Academic Achievement, Office of Educational Research, U.S. Dept. of Education, 1994)

KEY COMMON FINDINGS
RECENT STUDIES 1998-2001

- Library Media Specialists (LMS) exert positive and significant effect on academic achievement
- Administrative support for Library Media Programs (LMP) and teacher collaboration with LMS are critical to teaching and learning
- LMS is a pivotal player in a leadership role, support staff are essential, LMS collaborates with school community
- LMS has teaching role, as co-teacher of information literacy to students and in-service trainer of teachers
- LMC programs are networked and provide access to licensed databases and the Internet
- Access to the Library Media Center must be frequent, consistent, flexible
- Funds must support instructional technology, collection development, and staffing
- Collections need to be diverse, in multiple formats, and financially supported



INFORMATION LITERACY STANDARDS FOR STUDENT LEARNING

We want students who know and are able to:

- **Access** information efficiently and effectively
- **Evaluate** information critically and competently
- **Use** information effectively and creatively
- **Pursue** information related to personal interest
- **Appreciate** literature and other creative expressions of information
- **Strive** for excellence in information seeking and knowledge generation
- **Recognize** the importance of information to a democratic society
- **Practice** ethical behavior in regard to information and information technology
- **Participate** in groups to pursue and generate information

Quality Library Media Programs Help Students Succeed!

Summary

Are students likely to earn higher reading scores if:

- *their schools have certified library media specialists?*
- *their school library media specialists are assisted by support staff?*
- *their library media specialists play a vital instructional role, collaborating with classroom teachers?*

THE ANSWER TO ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS IS YES!

Students in schools with well-staffed library media programs averaged <u>reading scores five to ten points higher</u> than those without such staffing.

School Library Systems and Library Media Centers collaborate with the educational community to:

- strengthen instructional practices,
- enable students and staff to evaluate, apply and synthesize information,
- implement the NYS Learning Standards and National Information Literacy Standards,
- foster literature appreciation, and
- engage students in the learning process through the use of varied resources.

For further information please contact your local School Library System - (315) 433-2670

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The mission of the School Library System (established 1984) is to empower all school library media specialists to be instructional experts and leaders in their schools.

This summary of research was compiled in 2002 by Onondaga • Cortland • Madison BOCES School Library System
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